

BMS Australia Employees Cycle 1,200km Raising Nearly \$20,000 for Bowel Cancer Australia

Melbourne, Australia - Monday, 17 November 2025: Six dedicated employees from Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS) Australia have returned home after a 1,200-kilometre cycling journey across Japan as part of the 12th annual Continent 2 Continent 4 Cancer (C2C4C) ride, raising almost \$20,000 for Bowel Cancer Australia. Their journey, which spanned picturesque landscapes and steep climbs, was driven by a shared commitment: to advance cancer research and support Australians living with bowel cancer.

More than 14,000 Australians are told they have bowel cancer each year and more than 5,000 lives are lost. If found early, 99 per cent of bowel cancer cases can be treated successfully, however fewer than 50 per cent are detected early underscoring the importance of seeing your GP if you have symptoms¹.

C2C4C is a global initiative that unites BMS employees from around the world to raise funds and awareness for cancer research in their local communities. Over 12 inspiring years, the event has engaged more than 600 riders from 20 countries, raising millions to help fight cancer.

Owen Smith, General Manager, BMS Australia & New Zealand, said:

"C2C4C resonates deeply with our company's mission to transform patients' lives through science. I'm so proud of our riders - their dedication not only demonstrates the spirit of One BMS, but more importantly, honours all Australians and families affected by cancer. The funds they raised will help make a genuine difference to Bowel Cancer research, patient support and awareness."

This year, the BMS ANZ team included Arundhati Mhalgi, Julieanne Naji, Chris Downes, Kacper Jankowski, Ben Darby, and Milagros Vernengo. Collectively they cycled from Tokyo to Kobe, through mountains, rural towns, and bustling cities, motivated by loved ones affected by bowel cancer, Australia's fourth most common cancer.

Arundhati Mhalgi, Senior Clinical Trial Manager, said:

"Participating in C2C4C has been an extraordinary and truly transformative experience. The powerful purpose behind this ride has been the driving force that kept me going, even when the journey felt nearly impossible. The personal stories of close friends, colleagues, and their families affected by bowel cancer made this challenge deeply meaningful. Each successful climb served as a tribute to the incredible resilience our patients show every day in their fight."

Julieanne Naji, Senior Manager, Marketing Strategy Lead, said:

"Being part of C2C4C was one of the most challenging, rewarding and deeply meaningful experiences of my life. I'm proud and honoured to have contributed to raising funds for Bowel Cancer Australia and to supporting cancer patients, a truly a life changing journey."

Chris Downes, Associate Director, Brand Lead, Cardiovascular, said:

"I feel privileged to have participated in the C2C4C ride in Japan this year. It was an incredible experience that combined my passion for cycling with a meaningful purpose – raising funds for Bowel Cancer Australia and honouring family and friends whose lives have been touched by cancer."

Kacper Jankowski, Therapeutic Area Specialist, said:

"Participating in C2C4C was life-changing. Riding alongside my BMS colleagues, I felt a deep sense of unity and purpose as we tackled steep climbs together, driven by hope and determination. The outpouring of support from my community moved me deeply, reminding me that we're never alone in this fight. I'm incredibly proud to have contributed to Bowel Cancer Australia and to honor those affected by cancer. This journey has left a lasting mark on my heart."

Ben Darby, Therapeutic Area Specialist, said:

"Participating in C2C4C was truly a life-changing experience. The journey was not without challenge – both physical and emotional – but every moment was incredibly rewarding. Through this ride, I forged friendships and connections that will last a lifetime, all while raising awareness for Bowel Cancer Australia. It was a unique opportunity to push myself, make a meaningful impact, and join a vibrant community united for a powerful cause."

Milagros Vernengo, Associate Director Compliance & Ethics, said:

"Completing C2C4C was one of the most meaningful experiences of my life. One of my biggest learnings is that teamwork isn't about perfect communication, it's about shared commitment and a clear purpose. Diversity makes us stronger, and courage combined with preparation turns the impossible into possible!"

-ENDS-

About Bristol-Myers Squibb

Bristol Myers Squibb is a global biopharmaceutical company whose mission is to discover, develop and deliver innovative medicines that help patients prevail over serious diseases. For more information about Bristol Myers Squibb, visit us at <https://www.bms.com/au>

If you would like any further information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

Ali Melville
Bristol Myers Squibb
0477 309 012
Alison.melville@bms.com

References:

- ¹Bowel Cancer Australia <https://www.bowelcanceraustralia.org/bowel-cancer/bowel-cancer-facts/> [Accessed 3 November 2025]